GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4775
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
DEFICIENCY OF VITAMIN D
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `North Indians prone to Vitamin `D` deficiency` as appearing in Indian Express dated March 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation in the country in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) The scientific studies conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have indicated prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency among normal subjects in North India due to poor direct sunlight exposure and skin pigmentation. However, this study is very limited in its coverage and cannot be treated as being representative of the entire population. Nutrition education is a routine activity carried out through the media as well as through the Government health net-work, wherein people are suitably sensitised on the importance of a balanced diet, including supplementation in the form of micro-nutrients/vitamins, where-ever required.